

Chlamydia and your Baby

What is Chlamydia?

Chlamydia (“Kla-mid-ee-ah”) is the most common – and one of the most damaging – sexually transmitted diseases in the United States today. More than 4 million Americans suffer from chlamydial infections. Chlamydia is more common than gonorrhea and herpes infections.

How does chlamydia affect women?

Women who have chlamydia may have scarring of the tubes. This may lead to infertility or tubal pregnancies.

How does chlamydia affect babies?

The baby may be born prematurely. Babies also can get a serious eye infection or pneumonia.

What can I do to prevent chlamydia?

- Ask your doctor or nurse about getting tested.
- If you have the disease, take all of your medicine.
- Talk to your sex partners – if you have chlamydia, they must be tested for chlamydia.
- Limit your number of sex partners.
- Use condoms when you have sex.

How will I know if I have infected my baby?

- Most babies that develop the infection will get sick during the first few weeks of life up to six months of age.
- Some babies will have a watery or infected discharge from the eyes. Their eyelids may look swollen.
- Some babies may develop: a poor appetite, an ear infection, a runny nose, cold symptoms, a cough, a slight fever, or have trouble sleeping.

What should I do if I think my baby is infected with chlamydia?

Take your baby to see a doctor or nurse practitioner for testing and treatment.

For more information, call _____